

2018 358 WS
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Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

Richard K. Toomey, DHA, FACHE
Director

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JUL 15 2019

PSC SC
MAIL / DMS

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Ralph Norman
United States House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4005

Dear Representative Ralph Norman:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns on behalf of your constituents in the Lake Wylie area of York County about drinking water provided by Blue Granite Water Company (BGWC).

Ensuring all communities across our state have access to safe, clean drinking water is a priority for our agency and necessary for us to achieve our vision of *Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities*. While the BGWC's Lake Wylie system is currently in compliance with the state and federal drinking water requirements and standards, it's important to note that the state of South Carolina is not in a severe drought status.

I have attached departmental responses to your questions concerning the company's compliance history, system maintenance, timeliness of boil water advisories, current climatic conditions, predictions of water shortages and consumer protection.

Once again, we appreciate you sharing your concerns and those of your constituents with us and are happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Toomey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Richard K. Toomey

cc:

Ms. Nanette S. Edwards
Executive Director
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Senator Wes Climer
State Senator
South Carolina General Assembly
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~~Representative Bruce M. Bryant~~
State Representative
South Carolina General Assembly
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Ms. Allison Love
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York County Council
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Ms. Susan Bromfield
President
Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 5233
Lake Wylie, S.C. 29710

~~Representative Thomas E. Pope~~
State Representative
South Carolina General Assembly
505 Blatt Building
Columbia, S.C. 29201

COMPLIANCE HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS

DHEC regulates public water systems for compliance with federal and state drinking water standards. **As of today, the BGWC's Lake Wylie system is in compliance with state and federal drinking water requirements and standards.** A review of the past ten (10) years of agency monitoring data for the BGWC Lake Wylie system indicates that the Lake Wylie (formerly, River Hills) system had a lead *action level* exceedance in 2015 under the Federal Lead and Copper Rule. Under federal ruling by the EPA, the system was allowed to return to annual monitoring for lead and copper on January 1, 2017 because their lead 90th percentile for post-2015 monitoring data has been less than the federally-required action level of 15 parts per billion.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

~~DHEC performs a sanitary survey of drinking water systems, including the BGWC Lake Wylie system, on an annual basis. The purpose of a sanitary survey is to evaluate a public water system's ability to provide a continuous supply of safe drinking water to its customers.~~

A review of the past three annual Sanitary Surveys performed by the department (2016, 2017, 2018) noted **satisfactory ratings for system maintenance required in the survey.** The 2019 sanitary survey will be conducted in the Fall of this year.

TIMELINESS OF BOIL WATER ADVISORIES

State regulations place the responsibility on system operators to issue boil water advisories whenever there is a potential for contamination within the water system and to notify DHEC of their issuance within 24 hours. **The boil water advisories were issued by the BGWC Lake Wylie system on the following dates over the last three (3) years:**

- June 18, 2019
- June 4, 2019
- May 8, 2019 (break on York County transmission line; joint BWA was issued by York County and BGWC)
- January 28, 2019
- January 3, 2019
- November 23, 2018
- October 10, 2018
- September 24, 2018
- July 20, 2018
- July 2, 2018
- April 24, 2018
- October 12, 2017
- September 8, 2017

Based on our records for the boil water advisories noted above, DHEC was notified within the required 24-hour period for each issued advisory.

Other consumer-related notices issued over the last three (3) years include:

- New Conservation Protocol – May 31, 2019
- Non-Essential Water Conservation – May 30, 2019
- Irrigation Ban – May 18, 2019

CURRENT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

DHEC is a member of the State Drought Response Committee, headed by the Department of Natural Resources' State Climatology Office. Based on the most current climatic conditions, York County has been designated as 'incipient' drought status, which is the lowest stage of drought conditions. There may be other reasons, including equipment or business-related reasons driving the conservation requirements being set by BGWC at this time.

PREDICTING FUTURE SHORTAGES

While DHEC does not have regulatory authority over planning activities for individual water systems, water conservation and good stewardship of water resources is a good practice. We acknowledge that good business practices would certainly include planning for future growth and staying abreast of available data.

CONSUMER PROTECTION CONCERNS

Although DHEC's authority is limited to the administration of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Drinking Water Regulations, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs and the state Public Service Commission may have records and/or data of consumer complaints related to BGWC in the Lake Wylie service area.